

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Adam Pasley for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING MARIA GUZMAN-KENNEDY, DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVANT FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Maria Guzman-Kennedy, a good friend and committed public servant who is retiring this week after twenty years of service to the State of California. Throughout her career, Maria has shown resourcefulness, creativity, and dedication in improving the lives of the people of California. Her energy and compassion will be greatly missed.

Raised in East Los Angeles, Maria began her career with the State of California in 1991, when she was appointed to the Department of Consumer Affairs as Assistant Deputy Director. She created the California C.A.R.E.S. (Career and Resource Exchange Seminar) program, which helped find new employment for workers who were laid off by the closure of the Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo. Acting without the benefit of additional funding or staff, Guzman-Kennedy organized more than 100 private businesses and government agencies for a one-day job-finding seminar for 5,200 former base personnel. Maria built upon this success with the second California C.A.R.E.S. at the Long Beach Naval Shipyard, and her program was duplicated again at Castle Air Force Base in Atwater. Her efforts brought new employment and opportunities for thousands of base personnel who had lost their jobs.

When Maria Guzman-Kennedy moved to the California Department of Social Services in 1996 during the implementation of the CAL Works welfare-to-work program, she created several new programs to help welfare recipients who were returning to the job market. Maria created the Fast Track Family Child Care licensing program to quickly establish qualified child care providers for the many parents participating in welfare-to-work. By helping provide trustworthy and effective childcare, her program made work possible for many parents who might otherwise have been forced to stay at home. Maria also ensured that many of the new childcare centers hired mothers who had previously been on welfare, creating new jobs. She continued this work with a collaboration between White Memorial Medical Hospital and the Mexican-American Opportunity Foundation (MAOF) in Boyle Heights, which helped many low-income parents in that area with child care and continues to operate successfully today. The Fatherhood Conference program, which Maria also created, helped CAL Works fathers with education, counseling, and networking opportunities by pooling the resources of several private partners and community groups.

When Maria Guzman-Kennedy moved to the California State License Board in 1998, she developed two innovative seminar series

that used public education to combat scam artists and fraudulent contractors. The Consumer Information Fairs helped Spanish-speakers avoid exploitation by scam artists who saw them as vulnerable targets. Through this program, Maria educated 15,000 people across California, again without budget or staff and relying on volunteers and community partners. She continued this model with the Senior Scam Stoppers seminars series, which educated senior citizens about fraud and helped protect them from scam artists. To date, 132 Scam Stoppers seminars have been held in 5 different languages, serving an estimated 90,000 Californians.

Maria Guzman-Kennedy has been a great partner and defender of the community. She has used her creativity, passion, and perseverance to deliver new services to Californians who needed help, and she never allowed a lack of resources to stand in the way. I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating her on her many years of service, and I wish her much success in her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I was unable to cast my votes on Monday, March 14, 2011 due to a scheduled meeting in my District with constituents to discuss local transportation issues and wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been present to vote on H.R. 793 and H. Con. Res. 27.

Had I been present to vote on H.R. 793, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12781 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard in Inverness, California, as the "Specialist Jake Robert Velloza Post Office", I would have reluctantly voted in favor of this bill. I do not believe that in this time of high unemployment and rising deficit and debt levels we should be wasting time naming post offices. However, since I have a high respect for our military members and their sacrifices, on this bill I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present to vote on H. Con. Res. 27, providing for the acceptance of a statue of Gerald R. Ford from the people of Michigan for placement in the United States Capitol, I would have again reluctantly voted in favor of this bill. Again, at this time of high unemployment and record deficits and debts, I do not believe that we should be spending our time on placing statues in the U.S. Capitol. However, since we have set up a program allowing states to place statues in the Capitol and the people of Michigan have selected to honor President Gerald Ford, on this bill I would have voted "aye."

HONORING ELLIOTT J. KIEFFER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Elliott J. Kieffer.

Elliott is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1214, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Elliott has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Elliott has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Elliott has served as the Tamegonit Lodge Chapter Seven Chief and earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Elliott has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Elliott built a handicap-accessible ramp with handrails for St. James Catholic Church in Liberty, Missouri, providing easy access to the church's educational wing.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Elliott J. Kieffer for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RAELEEE ROSSEL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Raelee Rossel for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Raelee Rossel is a 12th grader at Standley Lake High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Raelee Rossel is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Raelee Rossel for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

INTRODUCING THE FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD ABOLITION ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation to restore financial stability to America's economy by abolishing the Federal Reserve. Since the creation of the Federal Reserve, middle- and working-class Americans have been victimized by a boom-and-bust monetary policy. In addition, most Americans have suffered a steadily eroding purchasing power because of the Federal Reserve's inflationary policies. This represents a real, if hidden, tax imposed on the American people.

From the Great Depression, to the stagflation of the seventies, to the current economic crisis caused by the housing bubble, every